

DECORATION

# The best exhibitions in London in April

From Sargent and Fashion at Tate Britain to an exhibition of stained glass at Two Temple Place, here's our invaluable guide to the best exhibitions in London to see

By Fiona McKenzie Johnston

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There may be no better way to spark inspiration and forget the doom and gloom of the world than by ducking into a gallery or museum. With the recently re-opened National Portrait Gallery, in Trafalgar Square, comes an exciting array of new exhibitions. This month, that includes a striking exhibition which explores the power of textiles in politics at the Barbican, and a show of Holbein portraits at the Queen's Gallery.

Whether your preference is in the conceptual or classical, there's no shortage of inspiring and thought-provoking artworks to be seen. Here, we've rounded up the best and most exciting exhibitions to see in [London](#) (and beyond).

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## The best exhibitions in London

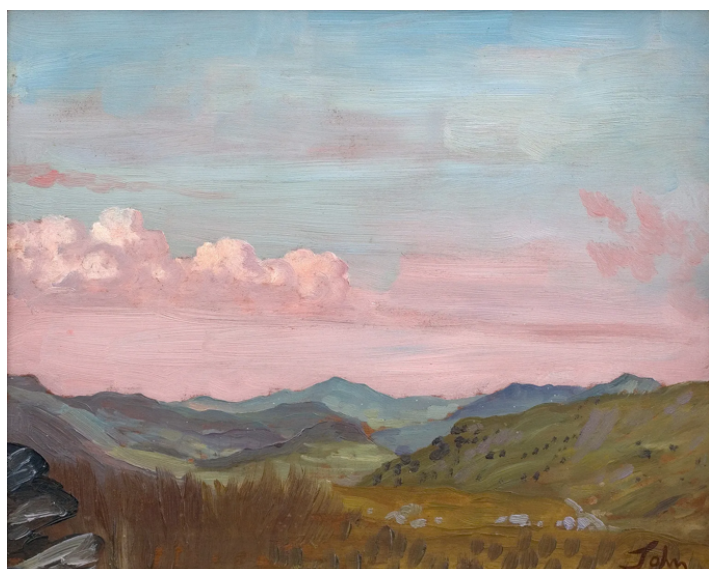


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[Anna Van Oosterom / Mary Norden: Torn, Vivienne Roberts Projects](#)

This exhibition at Vivienne Roberts Projects, EC1N, will showcase the work of two collage artists: Anna Van Oosterom and Mary Norden. In different ways, both artists explore the idea of isolation. For Anna, this is with reference to her nomadic lifestyle, which has seen her living and working across the globe. The exhibition will nod to this, in works which show lone figures in empty, public environments (all called *Untitled*). Mary's patchwork fabric depictions of landscapes are suggestive of sea, sand and sky. The rich use of calming colours instil in the onlooker a sense of serenity.

Pictured here; *Somewhere 1, 2024*, Mary Norden

[viviennerobertsprojects.com](http://viviennerobertsprojects.com)


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[Augustus John and the First Crisis of Brilliance, Piano Nobile, W11](#)

This show examines the work that heralded John's talent, placing his portraits of fellow students at Slade School of Fine Art and landscapes of his Welsh homeland alongside pieces by his contemporaries, including his elder sister Gwen John, and William Orpen and Jacob Epstein.

Pictured; *Landscape in Wales, 1911-13*

April 26-June 13; [piano-nobile.com](http://piano-nobile.com)



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3/19

[Visiting houses lived in by William Morris, the 19th-century textile designer, artist, writer and spearhead of the Arts and Crafts movement, is a captivating experience.](#)

[The Red House](#) in Bexleyheath, co-designed with architect Philip Webb, and [Kelmscott Manor in the Cotswolds](#), both of which are now open for the season, hold many works by him and his contemporaries. At [William Morris Gallery, E17](#), in the house he lived in as a teenager, *Art Without Heroes: Mingei* (until September 22), explores the early-20th-century Japanese folk-craft movement that developed in dialogue with British Arts and Crafts. Led by philosopher and critic Yanagi Sōetsu, Japanese studio potter Hamada Shōji and British studio potter Bernard Leach, it proposed an alternative to the rise of industrialism. The show features ceramics, textiles and woodwork, including 'Bowl in raku type earthenware', 1912, by Tomimoto Kenkichi, pictured here.

In 1920, Leach and Hamada founded [Leach Pottery](#) in St Ives, which is still a working pottery as well as a museum. Close ties were developed with the artistic community of makers in Ditchling, East Sussex, whose members included Eric Gill and Philip Hagreen, and the textile designers Hilary Bourne and Barbara Allen. Their significance, and relationship with the Arts and Crafts movement, is recounted at [Ditchling Museum of Art + Craft](#).